

METHODS AND ORGANISMS FOR CONCENTRATING AND RECOVERING  
METALS AND MINERALS FROM AQUEOUS MEDIA

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5           The present invention relates to methods and organisms for concentrating and  
recovering metals and minerals from aqueous media. In the inventive method, a eucaryotic  
aquatic organism capable of concentrating a metal or mineral is contacted an aqueous  
medium containing the metal or mineral, in order to concentrate the metal or mineral in the  
organism. Following concentration, the metal or mineral accumulated by the organism may  
10 be recovered. Sponges are very preferable organisms for isolating metals, e.g, gold and  
silver, from seawater.

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